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'We are entering age of terrorism,'

Bush says

By RICHARD VARA
Post Reporter

Increased terrorist attacks on American people and property abroad are likely, Central Intelligence Agency director George Bush said in a Pasadena speech Friday night.

"We are, as some have said, entering an era of terrorism," Bush said. He leaves office in three days.

Bush also warned of the possibility of

terrorist groups attempting to obtain sophisticated weapons of mass destruction to further their aims.

"The symbolic value of American targets will likely continue to make Americans and American facilities attractive as a means of gaining publicity for terrorist causes," he added.

Bush also noted that in the past eight years American citizens and property have been victimized in one-third of all terrorist incidents overseas.

Bush strongly defended the agency he heads and emphasized that it is "living within the law."

He said the CIA "took a pounding" a few years ago because of some inappropriate activities but he staunchly denied the agency was responsible for actions such as the overthrow of the Chilean government of Salvadore Allende.

Recruitment has recently improved and morale is in good shape at the CIA, he added.

He said that terrorists will continue their attacks and probably increase them because "in the short term it seems to pay."

"Unfortunately, political blackmail gets results. Terrorists are released, huge ransoms are paid and they get publicity for their causes," he said.

Terrorists are developing international networks and cooperating with each other in areas such as guns, ammunition, safe houses and other support.